



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 3, 2010

Mr. Larry Strickling
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: California Recommendations for Broadband American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Applications for Round Two

Dear Mr. Strickling,

Thank you for allowing California the opportunity to comment on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) broadband round two applications pending before your agency.

As you know, since 2006, when I formed a California Broadband Task Force, California has been a national leader in crafting a cohesive program of broadband mapping, a state-level broadband infrastructure program, broadband adoption and awareness programs and public computer center efforts. As a result of four years of effort, California is uniquely "shovel ready" on a number of critically important statewide and regional projects for round two of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Our state has been proactive in terms of promoting public-private partnerships to propose some exceptional projects in cutting-edge broadband infrastructure, telehealth, tele-education, public safety and public computer center programs impacting job seekers, veterans, Native American tribes and low-income persons.

As requested, we have reviewed the BTOP applications provided to us by the applicants, and we are submitting to you nine "highly recommended" projects and 21 other "recommended" projects. Our highly recommended projects are statewide or regional in nature, emphasize public-private partnerships and service to key anchor institutions, and otherwise meet the priority criteria established by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in its Notice of Funding Availability for round two.

Our state review process included neutral third party review of the applications we received, review by broadband experts in our state agencies and review of the recommended list of applications by key state agency officials. We did not receive applications to review from all applicants, nor did we have the resources to review multistate applications impacting California. Lack of comment on an application should not be construed in any adverse manner.

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I support the enclosed projects as consistent with our state goals for broadband, and we urge NTIA to consider our input when it makes its grant decisions, with special consideration for our highly recommended projects. These projects and investments will allow NTIA to meet its BTOP goals as well as allow us to meet our state broadband goals and improve the economic standing of California and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", written in a cursive, stylized script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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Attachments